

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 H-01 SS-15 NSC-05

DHA-02 /074 W

-----182029 099646 /50

R 180935Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5501

INFO USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0160

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S AFRICAN VISIT

1. WHILE MOZAMBIQUE MEDIA DURING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TEN DAY TRIP TO AFRICA WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH FRELIMO'S THIRD PARTY CONGRESS, LOCAL PRESS DID CARRY HALF DOZEN SHORT ARTICLES ON RHODESIA AND CELEBRATIONS IN ZANZIBAR IN WHICH REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG FIGURED PROMINENTLY. REMARKS APPEARED TO BE ACCURATE REPRESENTATION OF WHAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID AND EMPHASIZED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DETERMINATION:

-TO REPAL THE BYRD AMENDMENT:

-TO WORK FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM;

--TO SEEK A SOLUTION THROUGH CLOSE COOPERATION WITH BRITISH AND AFRICANS:

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--TO INJECT NEW LIFE AND MEANING IN AMERICAN'S RELATIONS WITH AFRICA: AND

--TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE OF MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THERE WERE NO EDITORIALS AND NO TASS OR GDN-PLANTED ARTICLES SNIPING AT THE TRIP.

2. AS USUAL, THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON YOUNG TRIP OR ITS IMPLICATIONS ON FUTURE RHODESIAN SITUATION. HOWEVER, UN OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT MIDDLE-LEVEL GPRM OFFICIALS HAVE COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON YOUNG'S REPORTED REMARKS IN DAR AND LAGOS. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS, LOCAL AFRICAN DIPLOMATS (GUINEA, CONGO AND TANZANIA) HAVE ALSO SPOKEN WARMLY AND HIGHLY OF VISIT.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MEDIA COVERAGE OF YOUNG'S TRIP WAS LIGHT, THE ABSENCE OF NEGATIVE OR PETTY EDITORIALIZING ON THE VISIT BY MOZAMBIQUE'S USUALLY ANTI-WESTERN PRESS IS AN ENCOURAGING SIGN. IT SUGGESTS TO US THAT SOMEONE HAS TOLD THE MEDIA THAT INSOFAR AS THE YOUNG VISIT IS CONCERNED, THE MEDIA SHOULD NOT BE NEGATIVE.
DE PREE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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